

## Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 IO-12 RSR-01 /133 W  
----- 119725

R 061444 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0022  
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
USINT CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA  
USCINCEUR  
USDOCOSOUTH  
USCINCAVEUR

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR LY

SUBJECT: QADHAFI CHALLENGES " AMERICAN AIRCRAFT CARRIER"?

1. IN TWO SPEECHES REPORTED OVER LOCAL WEEKEND RCC  
CHAIRMAN QADHAFI BOASTED THAT LAR HAD CHALLENGED U. S.  
MILITARY PROVOCATION. SPEAKING TO LIBYAN UNIVERSITY ENGINEER-  
ING STUDENTS AT TRIPOLI MAY 3, QADHAFI, ACCORDING LOCAL  
TRANSLATION SERVICE AND OUR RECOLLECTION OF BROADCAST,  
SAID THAT AMERICAN AIRCRAFT CARRIER WAS NEAR LIBYAN  
TERRITORIAL WATERS " THIS WEEK" AT A TIME WHEN A " GERMAN  
SHIP" WAS SAILING AND CARRYING SOME ZIONISTS TO " OCCUPIED  
PALESTINE." FOR HOURS, QADHAFI SAID, CHALLENGE BETWEEN  
CARRIER AND LARAF PLANES TOOK PLACE; " EVERY TIME FIVE  
LIBYAN AIRCRAFT TOOK OFF, TEN AMERICAN PLANES TOOK OFF."  
THE AMERICANS, HE SAID, THOUGHT THAT THE LARAF PLANES  
WOULD ATTACK THE SHIP.

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2. ADDRESSING TRIPOLITANIAN MILITIA UNITS OF POPULAR RESISTANCE FORCE AT AZIZIYA BARRACKS RALLY MAY 5, QADHAFI, ACCORDING PRESS ACCOUNT MAY 6, SAID, " STATES WHICH HAVE AIRCRAFT CARRIERS AND FLEETS -- NO MATTER HOW MUCH STRENGTH AND POWER THEY POSSESS -- DO NOT HAVE THE POWER TO FORCE THIS ( LIBYAN) PEOPLE TO TURN FROM ADHERING TO THEIR RIGHT TO FREEDOM OR FROM SACRIFICING THEIR LIVES FOR THE PROTECTION OF THEIR RIGHT."

3. COMMENT: QADHAFI MUST HAVE BEEN REFERRING TO MOVEMENTS OF SIXTH FLEET CARRIER; WE ASSUME " GERMAN SHIP" REFERRED TO IN FIRST SPEECH WAS BRITISH LINER QUEEN ELIZABETH II. REGARDLESS OF QADHAFI' S ERRORS OF FACT, POSSIBLE EXAGGERATIONS, OR MURKY SYNTAX, IT SEEMS HE RELISHES THOUGHT THAT HIS AIR FORCE IS PREPARED TO CONFRONT " ANY AND ALL CHALLENGES". TEXTS THESE SPEECHES NOT AVAILABLE LOCALLY. HOPEFULLY, FBIS WILL PROVIDE IN DUE COURSE.  
JOSIF

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NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**To:** AF  
ATHENS  
CAIRO  
ROME  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
TUNIS  
USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH  
VALLETTA

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